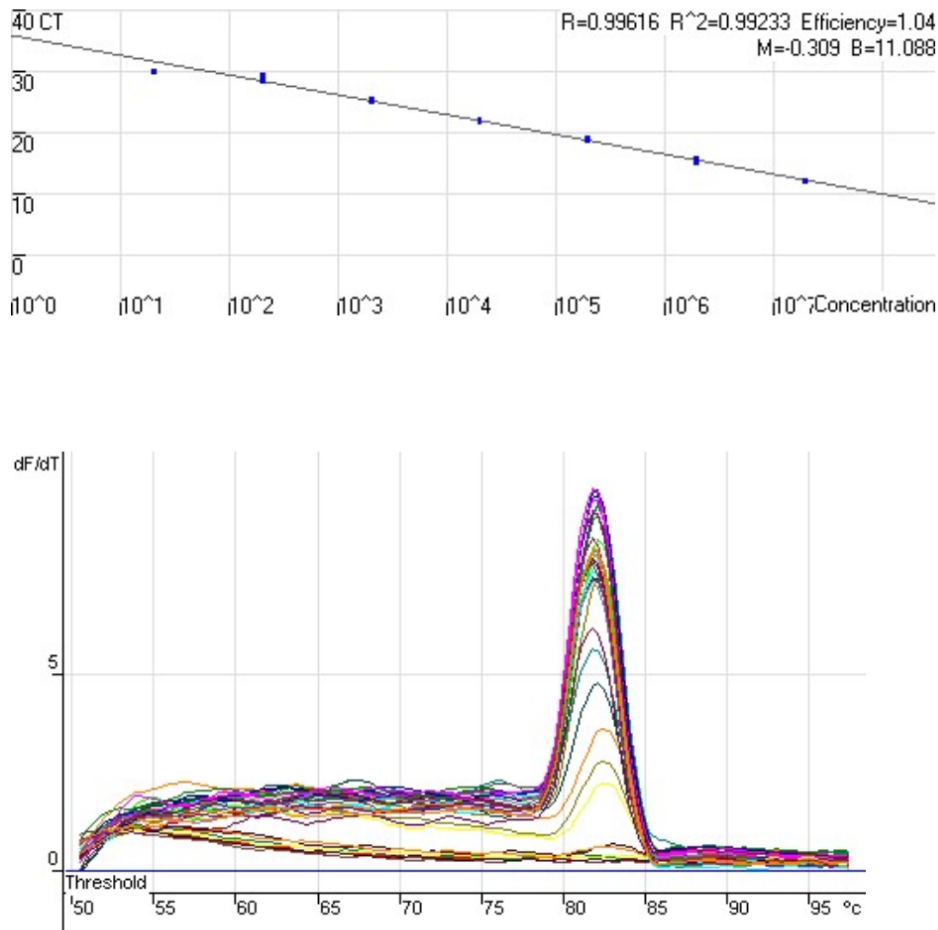


A.



**Supplemental Figure A.** Quantitative Real Time PCR for *S. aureus nuc*. Sybr Green RTQ-PCR with *nuc* gene specific primers was performed on various concentrations of purified *S. aureus* genomic DNA. The cycle threshold Ct for each dose was plotted vs. the calculated number of *nuc* genes from the concentration of DNA in the sample that was determined by its optical density at 260nm (top). The purity of the PCR products in the samples was confirmed by the single peak in the melting curves (bottom). These results define the detection limit of our RTQ-PCR assay to be ~10 copies of *nuc* genes. These results were also confirmed by TaqMan RTQ-PCR (data not show), which did not demonstrate any added benefit to justify its additional cost. Thus, we propose to use this Syber Green RTQ-PCR throughout the program.